

AMENDMENTS
In the Specification

[0005] Attempts to control the red imported fire ants have included extensive use of several approaches: persistent chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticides (Adams, 1986); vegetable oil phagostimulant/active ingredient solvent (Banks *et al.*, 1985); subterranean fogging devices (Amdro Fire Ant Insecticide, 1987); Amdro®, containing a chemical-based insecticide (Logic Fire Ant Bait, technical data, commercial brochure), and Logic®, containing fenoxy carb, a growth regulator, which when ingested by the queen prevents the development of eggs that would ~~nominally~~ normally develop into worker ants (Logic Professional Fire Ant Bait, product label, Te,inix International, Inc.). In Texas attempts are underway to used phorid flies in the biocontrol of imported fire ants (L.E. Gilbert Laboratory, U. T. Austin, 1997). As far as the inventors are aware, there are no microbial-based formulations to control the fire ant population.

[0012] The present invention provides a composition for controlling an insect population including an insecticidal amount of: a plurality of species of viable Gram negative bacteria, a plurality of species of dead Gram negative bacteria, extracts from a plurality of species of Gram negative bacteria, or mixtures or combinations thereof, where each species of Gram negative bacteria, alive or dead, or extracts thereof, is deleterious to an insect population or when ingested by an insect, results in insect death.~~kjjjk~~

[0087] The BioStim bait was prepared as follows: Six Strains are grown separately in 3 liters each of Tryptic Soy Broth (Difco) overnight at 35°C. The cells are separated by centrifugation and suspended in 1 liter of 10% skim milk. The mixture is then added along with 1 liter of Thioglycollate Broth without indicator (Difco) to 1500 grams of dry Quaker Oat Bran and mixed to cookie dough consistency. The material is then lyophilized to dryness, mixed to break up clumps in a food mixer, and packaged for use. Application was made after 5:30 p.m. on 27 July 1998. Evaluations were made on 3, 10, 17 and 25 August 1998 by counting all active mounds within each plot's sample area, as described above. The treatment/rate and method are shown in Table 2.